

## Wildflower Update

February 16, 2019

2.8 inches of rain in the recent storm has damaged roads and trails, but may very well extend the blooming season by allowing plants to continue to grow larger.

Heading east on S-22, look for early blooms along the roadside and in the washes & canyons between mile 33 and 35. There is a large pullout between miles 30 and 31 with room for parking near a field of purple sand verbena.

If you park and walk into Arroyo Salado, Coachwhip Canyon, or Ella Wash, you'll find a wide variety of flowers, including sand verbena, desert sunflower, brown-eyed evening primrose, and lupine. These flowers are blooming in response to fall storms in this area, and may be nearing their peak. There are many Desert lilies in bloom in Arroyo Salado primitive camp, with many more in bud.

**CAUTION:** Most roads into the Borrego Badlands require four-wheel-drive!

Check out the mouth of Coyote Canyon at the end of DiGiorgio Road, north of Borrego Springs. The Lower Coyote Canyon road is CLOSED to all traffic due to flooding from recent rains, but flower-seekers may walk a short distance up the road to see sand verbena. Walking along the private road heading east will take you to a field with desert sunflowers, lupine, sand verbena, and dune primrose.

For maps and directions, call the Visitor Center at 760-767-4205.

For guided flower walks on Fridays, reserve your spot with the Anza-Borrego Foundation at 760-767-0446.

Ocotillo Wells SVRA is also experiencing an early bloom due to heavy rain in the fall. Visitors with 4WD can check out The Cove, Devil's Slide, Palm Wash, and Tarantula Wash. Those without 4WD vehicles should visit the OWSVRA Discovery Center, and walk the accessible trail to see a variety of things in bloom.